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# The President's Daily Brief

*9 October 1973*

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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# THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

9 October 1973

## PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A fully mobilized Israel counterattacked on both fronts yesterday. Tel Aviv claims to have regained all but one enclave in the Golan Heights, and to have pushed the Egyptians south of Qantara into a thin strip along the canal. The situation in the northern portion of the canal is still unclear. *(Page 1)*

A note on the formation of an all-civilian cabinet in Greece appears on *Page 3*.



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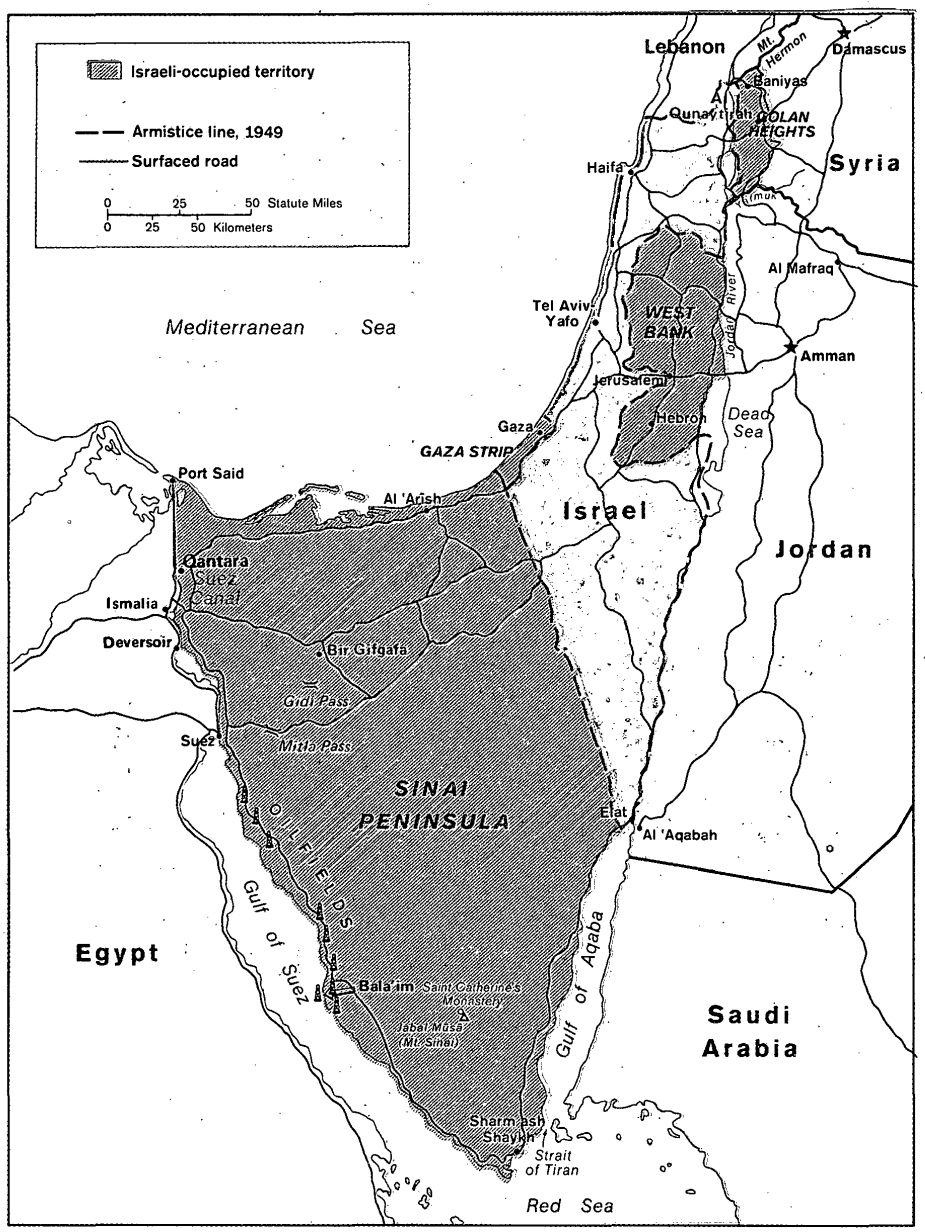


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# ARAB STATES - ISRAEL

Israel, now fully mobilized, counterattacked on both fronts yesterday and claims to have regained the entire Golan Heights area, with the exception of an enclave near the front line which the Israelis say they have surrounded.

The Israelis apparently concentrated on the Syrian front, leading off with air attacks on five airfields near Damascus. Syrian aircraft, too, attacked Israeli positions on the Heights yesterday morning, but, according to the Israelis, achieved only minor successes. The Israelis have admitted the loss of one aircraft to a missile, but claimed to have hit 27 Syrian planes in the air and ten on the ground.

On the Egyptian front, the Israelis say they are "cautiously optimistic" about the situation in the area south of Qantara; they claim to have pushed all Egyptian forces in that portion of the Sinai back to within nine kilometers of the canal. The Israelis say that five complete Egyptian infantry divisions and 600 to 700 tanks are "hemmed in" along that narrow strip of the canal, but admit that this force is strongly supported by artillery and missiles on the other bank, with one armored division and elements of three other divisions in reserve.

Cairo apparently pulled off a raid on the al-Bala'im oil fields across the Gulf of Suez, setting some wells on fire and sinking an oil rig. Israel had been operating these Egyptian fields since 1967, with production at about 4 or 5 million tons a year. Such a move would have harassment value for the Egyptians, and suggests that Cairo does not expect to retake the fields.

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In a meeting with the US ambassador last night, King Husayn was much less optimistic than before about the performance and prospects of Syria's forces, which he now thinks are going to "get a pasting." He is afraid the Israelis will not stop at the old cease-fire lines, and believes that a large-scale invasion of Syria would leave him with little choice but to join in. Although he is already under considerable pressure from other Arab leaders to enter the battle, he thinks he can hang on "for a few days more." His army is continuing to strengthen its defensive position.

The Soviet Union has made no moves suggesting an intention to get involved in hostilities; the bulk of its Mediterranean Squadron has been grouped near Crete, well away from the combat area, and has not been reinforced. Brezhnev yesterday placed the blame for the fighting on Israel but offered only sympathy to the Arabs, and Soviet officials have stressed that the situation must not be allowed to jeopardize detente with the US.

The Arab press has been mild in its treatment of the US, although this could change should the mood of the public shift from pride to defeat. None of the oil-producing states has so far threatened to cut the flow of oil to the West, although Iraq on Saturday nationalized the Exxon and Mobil shares of the Basra Petroleum Company.

The Security Council meeting requested by the US adjourned yesterday without taking any decision on the US proposal for a cease-fire and return to the 1967 lines. At least for the present, both Egyptian and Israeli spokesmen are insisting that any settlement must leave their respective states in control of the disputed "occupied" territories.





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# NOTE

Greece: Prime Minister Spyros Markezinis and an all-civilian cabinet were sworn in yesterday. The new government is to serve until parliamentary elections are held some time next year. Under the constitution, approved in a referendum last July, President George Papadopoulos designated the ministers of foreign affairs, defense, and public order.





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